

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please amend paragraph 27 on page 5 as follows:

[0027] Vertical manifolds are formed in the stack (10) by a plurality of openings in the interconnect plates (14) which are stacked and sealed together. In the context of a single interconnect plate (14), a "manifold" refers to the opening defined by the plate which forms the stack manifold when a plurality of plates are stacked together. Fuel gases enter the stack through fuel intake manifold (30), flow across the interconnect (14) in a fuel flow field (17), through the incompressible element (22), through gas flow fields (16), and exit the stack through the fuel exhaust manifold (32). The oxidant gasses enter the stack through an oxidant intake manifold (34) and flow across the interconnect (14) through gas flow fields perpendicular to gas flow fields (16) and exit the stack through manifolds (36). All the manifolds are sealed to the interconnect plates (14) through manifold seals (38). Seals (38) are preferably compressible and yet remain flexible at the fuel cell's typical operating temperature of over 650°C. It is important that the seals remain flexible at the cells operating temperature to accommodate the thermal expansion and contraction that the different elements of the fuel cell stack will encounter during thermal cycling occurring in normal operation. Suitable preferred seals are disclosed in co-pending U.S. application no. 09/931,415 filed August 17, 2001, the contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference. However, the type of seals used are not intended to be a limiting element in the within application.